

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7735

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR IN

SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION FAS/USDA WASHDC INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA

MADRAS AUG 13 IS REPEATED

QUOTE

TOFAS 153

FROM AGATT FOR GRAIN AND FEED DIV., FAS, AND PARKER, ERS

SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: TOFAS 148

1. MONSOON ACTIVITY WEAKENED MARKEDLY DURING THE WEEK
ENDING AUGUST 11, WHEN COMPARED WITH THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4.
THE NUMBER OF WEATHER ZONES RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL
RAINFALL DECLINED TO 15 (OUT OF A TOTAL OF 35) FROM 23 IN THE
PREVIOUS WEEK. AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL
DURING THE WEEK UNDER REVIEW WERE: BAYISLANDS, PARTS OF NORTHERN
BENGAL AND BIHAR, EAST UTTAR PRADESH, HARYANA, PUNJAB, HIMACHAL
PRADESH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, RAJASTHAN, EAST GUJARAT, CENTRAL
MAHARASHTRA, COASTAL AND SOUTHWEST ANDHA PRADESH, AND TAMIL
NADU. RAINFALL OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS DEFICIENT TO
SCANTY FROM 22 PERCENT INCOASTAL MAHARASHTRA AND NORTHWEST ANDHRA
PRADESH TO 95 PERCENT IN LAKSHADWEEP (BELOW NORMAL). NORTH BIHAR
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE START OF THE CURRENT MONSOON SEASON
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RECEIVED NORMAL LEVELS OF RAINFALL DURING THE WEEK GIVING HOPE

TO FARMERS THAT RICE CROP PROSPECTS WOULD IMPROVE WITH FURTHER RAINFALL.

2. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FROM JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 11, 1976 WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE IN BAY ISLANDS, ASSAM AND ADJOINING STATES, NORTH BENGAL, HARYANA, PUNJAB, HIMACHAL PRADESH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, MAHARASTHRA, ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA, AND LAKSHADWEEP. RAINFALL OVER THE BALANCE OF THE COUNTRY WAS BELOW NORMAL RANGING FROM 20 PERCENT IN SOUTH

BIHAR TO 45PERCENT IN KERALA. WEATHER ZONES WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 65 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION USING AS A BASE

THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71. DURING THE COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1975, AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR 97 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION.

3. WITH MORE THAN ONE-HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON SEASON HAVING PASSED, THIS YEAR'S MONSOON PERFORMANCE SO FAR IN THE IMPORTANT RICE PRODUCING STATES OF ORISSA, BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH AND KERALA REMAINS BELOW NORMAL, THE DEFICIENCY RANGING BETWEEN 20 TO 45PERCENT. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERED ABOVE NORMAL, THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE MONSSON TO DATE IS NOT AS FAVORABLE AS DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOI'S FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION TARGET OF 116 MILLION METRIC TONS APPEARS SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC.

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